

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 12, 1895, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Gilsey House, New York.
Sunday, May 12, 1895. Dear May:

Here I am in New York attending to the Washburne matter. The Pinkertons telegraphed me that my personal attendance in New York would be necessary in order to secure a warrant for the arrest of the man. Accordingly I left Friday night arriving here yesterday morning early. After breakfast a detective appeared who took me down to the Tombs Police Court — accompanied by Mr. Miller of the firm of Wise and Miller Jewellers — from whom Washburne is now trying to obtain an advance of ten or fifteen dollars — on the ground of enabling him to visit me in Washington. We reached the Police Court at ten minutes before eleven — and found it closed.

Business there stops at 10:45 A. M. — on Saturdays! A short day surely.

We then proceeded to the Jefferson Police Court — and had to wait there for two or three hours for a chance to see the judge. We waited while a stream of women (“Ladies first” you know) — filed up before his honor — complaining of drunken husbands — blows and abuse.

Then our turn came. Then a warrant was issued for the arrest of the man — (making Mr. Miller the complainant) — on the ground of an attempt to obtain money under false pretences.

The officer whose duty it was to make the arrest — refused to touch the matter before Monday morning. The charges 2 he said, was only an attempt at petty larceny and he therefore declined to serve the warrant on Saturday afternoon! This keeps me in town

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over Sunday. The Washburne man had arranged to call at Wise and Millers on Saturday afternoon — so detectives were on hand. The fellow actually appeared — and Mr. Miller put him off on one ground or another — until Tuesday afternoon. Upon his departure from the store a detective “shadowed” him home and saw him let himself in at a door with a pass-key.

The arrest I understand, will be made tomorrow (Monday) morning at 8:30 A. M.

I am dissatisfied with the charge — and shall seek legal advice tomorrow. Telephoned your Uncle Ric, and arranged to meet him at the Mutual Life at 10 o'clock. Will get him to recommend some one to act as my legal representative in the matter. Mr. Miller (of Wise and Miller's) retained the letter the man showed him which purported to be signed by me. Inclined to think I should prosecute him for forgery and that the people from whom he obtained money under false pretences — should be compelled to come forward either as prosecutors or witnesses.

Will let you know how matters progress tomorrow.

Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, % Munroe and Co., Paris, France.